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Via Facsimile (202) 616-9937

Ronata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I appreciate the chance to share my thoughts on the Microsoft matter as part of the Department of Justice's comment process. I don't represent Microsoft or its affiliates and am not a Microsoft shareholder, so the views expressed are simply those of an interested American.

I didn't agree with the Justice Department when it began this process. DOJ's market analysis appeared to be static when the product, product mix and alleged anticompetitive behavior were all evolving on a dynamic matrix. From a consumer protection standpoint, which is the basis for antitrust action, the result of those behaviors provided reduced costs to consumers from a product that became user-friendly and efficient. No evil consequences - only good results.

But the results of the government's actions against Microsoft have not been good. The DOJ has been unable to show that the action will improve software, decrease costs or expand services. In fact, the government's heavy-handed action has had a chilling effect on investment and on innovation.

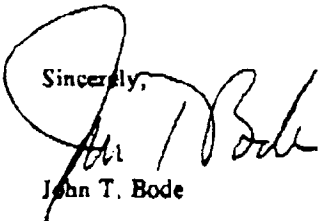
The settlement that has been proposed provides wide-ranging protections against anticompetitive behavior by Microsoft - protections that probably go much farther than needed. Wisely, the State of North Carolina is no longer a party to this proceeding, a recognition of the effectiveness of the settlement provisions.

Given the economic uncertainty threatening our nation today, there is no better time and no better way to bring this over-long and over-expensive proceeding to a close. I sincerely hope the court will do so.

Thank you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


John T. Bode

JTB/cmm